



NEWS RELEASE

Date: March 15, 2018
District: 7- Los Angeles & Ventura Counties
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

****Update****

Topanga Canyon Boulevard (State Route 27) Closed Due to Mud and Rock Slide

Between Topanga and Malibu - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has closed SR-27 (Topanga Canyon Boulevard) between State Route 1 (Pacific Coast Highway) and Grandview Drive due to a mud and rock slide through at least Sunday night, March 18, 2018 with the expectation of more rain this weekend.

At approximately 2:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 15, the California Highway Patrol requested Caltrans to respond to a mud and rock slide near mile post marker 1.5 on Topanga Canyon Blvd. (SR-27) to establish and maintain a hard closure. After the ground became saturated in a former burn area, large rocks, mud, debris, and ash slid down the slope and over the gully and roadway shoulder. A drainage pipe at that location also became clogged with mud and debris and the overflow spilled onto the roadway.

This is the third slide in an area where there was a fire this past January. After the fire, Caltrans installed several hundred feet of K-rail with fence on top with a total height of eight feet to catch mud and rocks. This morning's slide occurred along that K-rail and also outside the parameters of the K-rail for a total of three separate locations within a span of approximately 1000 feet.

By 9 a.m. this morning, Caltrans had skip loaders, backhoes, and dump trucks clearing the roadway, working together with one of our emergency contractors. We will work until we lose sunlight today and then return to work tomorrow morning by 7 a.m. The roadway should be cleared by today, but substantial mud and rocks still need to be cleared from the shoulder, the hillside and from behind the K-rail.

(more)



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Even in areas where vegetation and trees survived the fire, the soil and roots systems were loosened, allowing quicker saturation of the soil, which leads to slides. Caltrans used a drone today to film the area within the secured roadway closure. Our technical engineers will review the footage to determine our next steps, which may include adding more K-rail and fencing and installing larger drain pipes.

The roadway will probably remain closed through Sunday night as a safety measure in anticipation of more rain. The closure covers a span of approximately four miles within a rural area. There are no homes or businesses within the area of the slide. The roadway is one lane in each direction with a shoulder within the closure area.

For alternate routes, use other canyon roads between SR-1 and US-101, I-405 or State Route 23. Photos attached.

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